



The Enduring Love of Christmas

“His mercy extends to those who fear him, from GENERATION to GENERATION.”

Luke 1:50

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday (morning) our sermon is about Mary and the “Magnificat,” her beautiful song which is actually pretty revolutionary, as she sings about a world turned upside down. Lately I have been worried about the state of our world and the future of the church. I listen as folks in religious circles talk about the ‘good old days’ when more people were in worship, blue laws kept stores closed, and traveling sports teams did not exist. I wonder and worry about where the church will be in the coming years, but then I remember I am in the faith business...and my faith is renewed on those special Sundays like yesterday!

The rain was coming down hard, there were reports of tornadoes, and my phone’s emergency signal kept going off. I was standing on the church porch holding bulletins, sure that NO ONE would brave the weather to come to church in a storm of that magnitude. “Oh Ye of little faith!!” Folks just kept coming...we ran out of bulletins and finally I had to go inside and take back bulletins from couples who could share.

The children’s pageant is one that is used every year and the way it is scripted is like having a service of lessons and carols, but in the midst of singing, you get cute children acting out the Christmas story. My point is that when we get discouraged about ministry, Christmas rolls around and folks come to church! The spirit is still at work and children are still coming to church to be actors in a Christmas play that never grows old. And it happens with each generation!

Thank you for ‘showing up’ in worship yesterday, even if you got soaking wet getting here! Thank you to Ashleigh and all the helpers and parents who got the children here for rehearsals and costume fittings. I hope you will join us Sunday morning as we hear the story of Mary and her song. Then Sunday evening at 6:00 we will have our candlelight Communion service.

Merry Christmas!

Mike